

**METHODS AND DEVICES FOR PROVIDING A RELATIVE LEVEL OF  
FAIRNESS AND QoS GUARANTEES TO WIRELESS LOCAL AREA  
NETWORKS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**[0054]** Problems associated with hidden nodes and overlapping cells in Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) are substantially eliminated by only allowing non-interfering Access Points to transmit during assigned slots of a contention-free period (CFP). The CFP is  
5 broken up into a number of slots which are assigned to Access Points based on the number of users associated with each Access Point. This assures a relative level of fairness and a quality of service.